PRESENTER PROFILE

Professor Emeritus Ron McCallum AO

Ronald C McCallum AO was the foundation Blake Dawson Waldron Professor in Industrial Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney. He took up this position in January 1993 and retired from this position on 30 September 2007.

This Blake Dawson Waldron professorship was the first full professorship in industrial law at any Australian university.

Ron is the first totally blind person to have been appointed to a full professorship in any field at any university in Australia or New Zealand. Upon his retirement, in January 2011, he was appointed to an Emeritus Professorship in the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney.

Professor McCallum has written extensively on labour law matters. Ron taught Administrative Law, Public Law and Labour Law at the University of Sydney at both the undergraduate and postgraduate e levels. He has also taught Labour Law at the Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, Ontario Canada, and at Duke University, North Carolina United States of America. Before commencing teaching at the University of Sydney, he taught at Monash University from 1974 to 1992.

On 1 July 2002, Professor McCallum commenced his five year term as Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Sydney. His term as Dean of Law concluded on 30 September 2007. Ron is the first totally blind person to be appointed to the Deanship of a Law School in Australia or New Zealand.

Ron was also the inaugural president of the Australian Labour Law Association, and he served in that role from February 2001 to November 2009. As President, in September 2009 in Sydney, he hosted the XIX World Congress of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law. From September 2006 to September 2009, Professor McCallum served as the Asian regional Vice-President of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law.

In 1982, Professor McCallum was appointed as one of a number of foreign correspondents to the National Academy of Arbitrators. The Academy is the professional body for private labour arbitrators in the United States and Canada. In this role, he has participated in six world-wide comparative labour law studies which have been published in what is now titled the Comparative Labour Law and Policy Journal.

Since 2006, Professor McCallum has been a member of the Board of Vision Australia Pty Ltd, and in November 2006 he was appointed as one of the two Deputy-Chairs of this Board. Vision Australia assists blind and vision impaired people in Australia, but especially in the States of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and in the Northern Territory.

Professor McCallum is an elected member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, whose primary function is to monitor on a world wide basis, the implementation by reporting countries of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Ron is a Vice-Chairperson and the immediate Past Chairperson of this United Nations committee.

In early 2003, the Australian Government awarded Professor McCallum a Centenary Medal for his role as a labour law scholar and for his role as a disabled citizen in our nation.

In the 2006 Queen's Birthday honours list (12 June 2006), Professor McCallum received the designation of Officer in the Order of Australia for his services to tertiary education, for industrial relations advice to governments, for assistance to visually impaired persons and for social justice. On 11 October 2007, Professor McCallum received the 2007 Alumni Achievement Award of Queen's University Canada where he had undertaken postgraduate studies in law from 1972 to 1974. On 25 November 2010, Professor McCallum was awarded by the Premier of New South Wales Ms Kristina Keneally, the honour of being declared NSW Senior Australian of the Year for 2011. On 25 January 2011, Professor McCallum was awarded by the Prime Minister of Australia Ms Julia Gillard, the honour of being Senior Australian for the Year 2011.

On 4 October 2012, Professor McCallum received the Monash University Life Time Achievement Award 2012 at a Monash University awards ceremony in Melbourne. At the Law Awards dinner which was held in Melbourne on 26 July 2013, Ron was given the Michael Kirby Life-Time Achievement Award for his work as a teacher of law over four decades.

On 7 December 2010, Professor McCallum commenced his consultancy at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers.

On 20 December 2011, Professor McCallum was appointed by the Minister for Workplace Relations etc, Mr Bill shorten, to a three member panel to review Australia's Fair Work laws, that is Australia's labour and employment law legislation. The review was completed on 15 June 2012. See *Towards More Productive and Equitable Workplaces: An Evaluation of the Fair Work Legislation*, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra, Australia, 15 June 2012.

On 21 August 2013, Professor McCallum was sworn in as a part time member of Australia's Administrative Appeals Tribunal, and has been designated in particular to hear appeals under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Ron is married to Professor Mary Crock and they have one daughter and two sons. His hobbies include playing the flute, reading, cooking and meditation.